

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

Part 4

1887 - 1968

PURGATORY

On February 13, 1913, Padre Pio wrote in a letter to his spiritual director, Padre Agostino: "... Do not fear I will make you suffer but I will also give you strength for it – Jesus repeats to me. I desire that your soul be purified and tried with daily inner torture; do not be frightened if I permit the devil to torment you, the world to disgust you, because nothing will prevail against those who mourn under the Cross for love of me and that I have persevered to protect."

Again on March 12, 1913: "... Hear, my Father, the righteous laments of our dearest Jesus: With what ingratitude is repaid my love for the people! I would have been less offended by these people if I had loved them less. My Father does not want to tolerate them anymore. I would like to cease loving them, but ... (and now Jesus paused and sighed, and then continued) but alas! My heart is made for loving! Cowardly and lazy men do not make any effort to control their temptations, on the contrary they take delight in their wickedness.

"The souls more favored by me, when put on trial, fail me, the weak ones abandon themselves to dismay and

despair, the strong ones keep slackening bit by bit. In the Churches they leave me alone at night, alone during the day. They do not care anymore about the Sacrament of the altar; they do not speak anymore of this Sacrament of love; and even those who do talk about it alas! with such indifference, with what coldness. My heart is forgotten; no one cares anymore for my love; I am always grieved.

"My House has become for many a theater of amusements: even my ministers whom I have always regarded with favor, whom I loved like the pupil of my eye; they ought to comfort my heart filled with bitterness; they ought to assist me in the redemption of souls, instead who would believe it? From them I have to receive ingratitude and rejection.

"I see, my son, many of these who ... (now he quieted, the hiccups tightened his throat, he cried in secret) who under hypocritical appearances betray me with sacrilegious Communions, trampling on the counsel and strength that I constantly give to them"

